



Worship Service for December 15, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude	Marshall Davies
Chiming of the Hour	Paula McKnight
Welcome	Pastor Felix Carrión
Centering Moment	Pastor Felix Carrión
Praise and Worship Song	Congregation

“We Light A Candle”

We light a candle for hope
and our world that’s longing for hope
We light a candle for hope
and our world that’s longing for hope Holy One,
shine with the fire of our lives oh
We light a candle for hope
and our world that’s longing for hope

We light a candle for love
and our world that’s longing for love
We light a candle for love

and our world that's longing for love Holy One,
shine with the fire of our lives oh
We light a candle for love
and our world that's longing for love

We light a candle for joy
and our world that's longing for joy
We light a candle for joy
and our world that's longing for joy Holy One,
shine with the fire of our lives oh
We light a candle for joy
and our world that's longing for joy

We light a candle for peace
and our world that's longing for peace
We light a candle for peace
and our world that's longing for peace Holy One,
shine with the fire of our lives oh
We light a candle for peace
and our world that's longing for peace

Announcements

Paula McKnight

Call to Worship

Paula McKnight

LEADER: In Advent, we watch and wait in wakeful alertness.

ALL: In Advent, we prepare to welcome the life of Jesus, who was sent into the world to embody divine truths.

LEADER: In Advent, we greet the Holy One, who transforms our hearts into living temples.

ALL: In Advent, we prepare to walk the path of discipleship and mission with unwavering devotion and commitment.

LEADER: Come, Holy Child, come!

ALL: Remind us of our divine essence and holy calling to love.

LEADER: In Advent, we watch for signs of God's presence birthing new life in our midst.

ALL: Come, Holy One! Be born among us! Move in and through us! Make yourself known to us! May your love blossom in our lives.

***Hymn**

Marshall Davies

TNCH #131 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear vs. 3 & 4

And you, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way,
With painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever circling years
come years the age of gold;
When peace shall o-ver all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Gathering Prayer

Congregation

ALL: Holy One, we pray for the power to be gentle; the strength to be forgiving; the patience to be understanding; and the endurance to walk the path of hope, peace, joy, and love. We put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the power of love to overcome hatred. Help us devote our lives to alleviating suffering and bringing love to our world.

Amen

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Paula McKnight & Pastor Felix Carrión

It is the season of short days and long nights. We light this candle to remember that even in natural darkness, our lights shine. The joy of God allows us to look at others through Heaven's eyes and help guide the world to experience God's love. Joy from God empowers us to trust in God's promises despite the dark, scary world around us. Let us slow down

and listen to the sacred voice that is our guide, as we wait to celebrate the coming light in the Child Jesus.

Biblical Witness

Paula McKnight

1 John 4:7-9, 11, 12, 18, 19

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

Contemporary Witness

Pastor Felix Carrión

The Light We Give: How Sikh Wisdom Can Transform Your Life
by Simran Jeet Singh

We have shared experiences, yet we experience them differently. I have grown immensely by opening myself up to the world. Rather than being judgmental about the different perspectives and ways of living, I am now intrigued and curious. Why do you think so? What experiences inform that outlook? Taking this approach reveals that there's more to us than the attributes we were born with or our experiences at the surface. We all have it in us to journey together to our shared interior, to the inner struggles that make us human and that we hold in common. Traveling together can help us make meaning—of ourselves and our world—and can help us find answers to questions we never even thought to ask. Life is so much more enjoyable when we feel connected and move with purpose.

Reflection

Pastor Felix Carrión

“The Love We Give”

Special Music

Members of
First Congregational Church, UCC
& Plymouth United Choir (video)

“Come Emmanuel Come”

*Narrator: Long before the birth of Christ, prophets told of a coming Messiah: One who would bring the world out of darkness and into light. And the world waited with hope...
...hope for a time when people would be free from oppression; and for a time when fighting and war would give way to understanding and peace; hope for the end of poverty, hunger, and pain; and hope for the arms of God to wrap the world in everlasting love.*

A glimmer of hope shines into the darkness,
when will the dawning come?

A whisper of peace echoing silently,
when will we hear the song?

Hope of the earth

Promise of ages,

Light of the world to see.

Spirit of wisdom, power, and love,
come, set the captive free!

Come, Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel, come Emmanuel,
come.

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
come and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appears.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel,
Come, Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel, come Emmanuel,
come.

Born Thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now Thy gracious kingdom bring!
Come, Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel, come Emmanuel,
come.

Voices cry out,
lost in the darkness,
searching for truth and right,
longing for peace,
watching and waiting for Love's redeeming light.

Prophets foretold the promise unfolding;
angels in heaven sing.

Mountains bow down and valleys rise up
to welcome the coming King!

Come, Emmanuel, come, Emmanuel, come Emmanuel,
come.

Pastoral Prayer with Joys & Concerns

Pastor Felix Carrión

Invitation to Offering

Pastor Felix Carrión

Ani-Meals on Wheels

Offertory Music

Members of
First Congregational Church, UCC
& Plymouth United Choir (video)

“Listen to the Joyful Song”

(Narration): The night Christ was born an angel appeared to the shepherds saying, “Fear not! For I bring you good tidings of great joy!” And the heavens were filled with angels celebrating and singing, “Glory to God in the highest!” And we continue that celebration as the scripture commands: “Great is the Holy One of Israel among you. Shout aloud and sing for joy!”

Listen to the sound of the angels' singing, hear the joyful music fill the sky. Join with the heavenly chorus, “Glory be to God on high.”

Listen to the news of the wondrous story, echo through the heavens clear and strong. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Listen to the angels singing a Christmas song.

See the shepherds kneeling at the manger worshiping the newborn King. (heaven ringing). Hear the bells of heaven ringing.

Hark! the herald angels singing.

Listen to the news of the wondrous story echo through the heavens clear and strong. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Listen to the angels singing a Christmas song.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled!" Joyful all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies, with the angelic hosts proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Hark! the herald angels sing, " Glory to the newborn King!"

Listen, listen, listen, listen.

God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay

Listen to the angels' heavenly sound,

Remember Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas day, spreading good tidings all around (to).

Save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.

Listen to the angels sing tidings of comfort and joy!

Listen to the bells in the heavens ringing.

Listen to the sound of the angels' singing.

Listen to the sound of the whole world singing,

lifting up their praises to the sky.

Join with the mighty chorus, "Glory be to God on high."

Listen to the news of the wondrous store, echo through the heavens clear and strong.

Joy to the world the Lord is come (the Lord is come)!

Listen to the angles, (Listen to the angels singing) a

Christmas song!

Listen to the joyful song!

***Doxology**

Congregation

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace

Praise God for gifts of joy and love

Praise God for sending Christ to dwell

On earth for us - Emmanuel.

Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Paula McKnight

ALL: Holy One, we commit what we have offered to help sow seeds of hope, peace, joy, and love in the world. Bless now these offerings. May they be used in the service of your divine light.

Amen.

***Hymn**

Congregation

TNCH #126 "Angels, From the Realms of Glory" vs. 1, 2, & 3

Angels, from the realms of glory,

Wing your flight o'er all the earth;

As you sang creation's story,

Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, come and worship,

Worship Christ, give thanks and sing.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, give thanks and sing.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam a-far;
Seek the great Desire of Nations,
Guided by Christ's natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, give thanks and sing.

Benediction

Pastor Felix Carrión

Song of Parting

Congregation

TNCH # 154 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hill and everywhere.

Go tell the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born!

(x2)

Postlude

Marshall Davies

Today's Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Paula McKnight

Sound: Cathy Normand

Video: Tony Trosclair

Projector: Mary Lowell

YouTube Host: Rev. Lori Keaton

Rev. Felix Carrión

Designated Pastor

Plymouth United Church (UCC)

5927 Louetta Road, Spring, Texas 77379

(281)251-8147

pastor@plymouthunited.org

Moderator: Aimee Broadhurst

281-414-5487

moderator@plymouthunited.org

Office Manager: Amie Friday

281-251-8147

officemanager@plymouthunited.org

Music Director: Dr. Marshall Davies

musicdirector@plymouthunited.org